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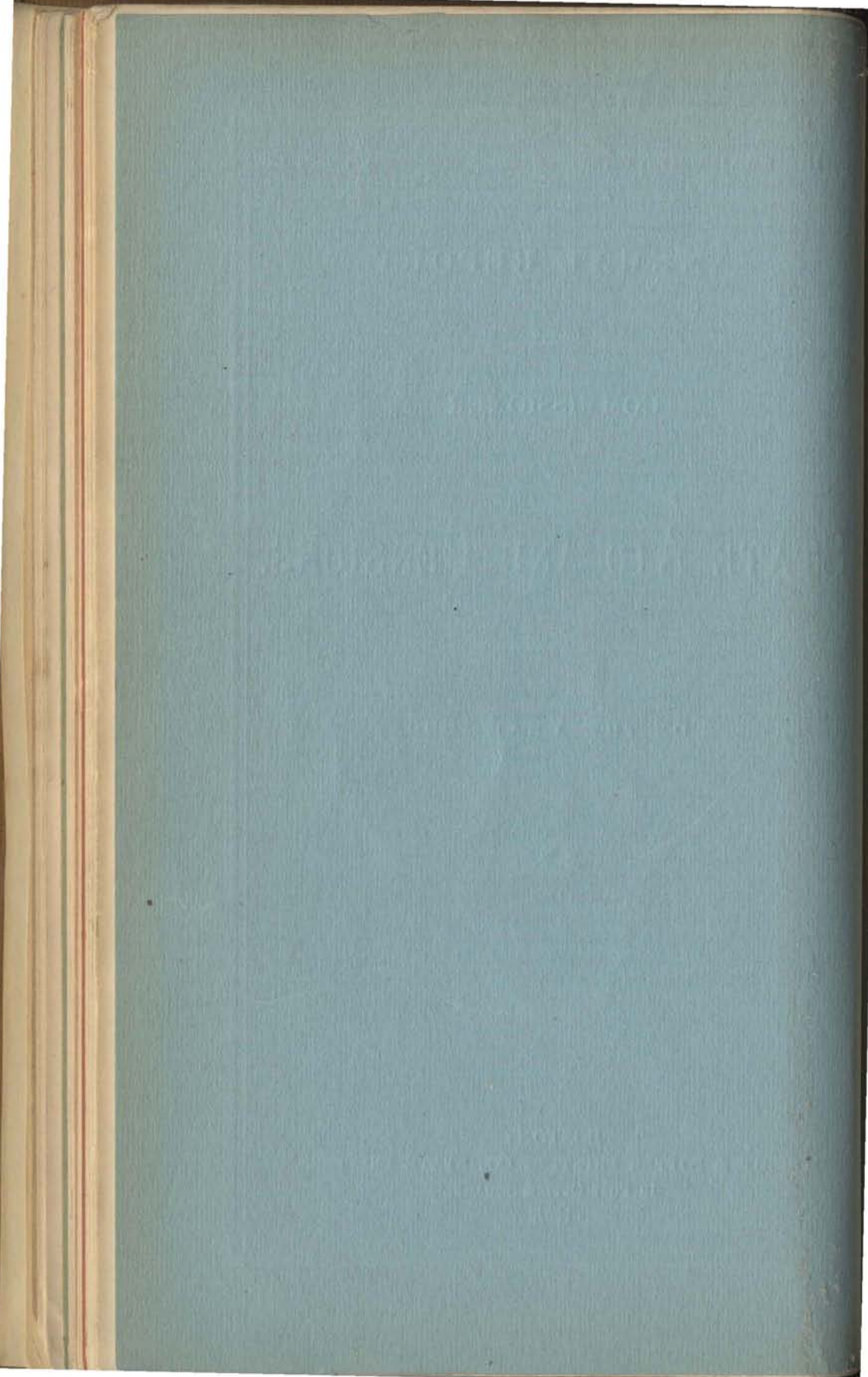
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER
OF
STATE AID AND PENSIONS.

FOR THE YEAR 1906.



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 4, 1907.

To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives.

The annual report of the department of State aid and pensions is herewith presented to your honorable bodies, the part relating to State aid and burials being for the year 1905, and that relating to pensions covering the year 1906.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,
Commissioner.

Compendium of Statistics

Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office
for the year ending June 30, 1881
The following table shows the number of acres of land
owned by the Government in the several States and
Territories, and the number of acres of land
owned by private individuals, for the year ending
June 30, 1881.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES M. HARRIS

Commissioner

Original from the General Land Office, Washington, D.C.

REPORT.

STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES.

The expenditures on account of State and military aid and the burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, their wives, widows, dependent mothers, and army nurses, for the year 1905, were as follows : —

State aid to soldiers and dependents, civil war,	\$767,243 50
State aid to soldiers and dependents, war with Spain,	5,767 00
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, civil war,	33,840 41
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, war with Spain,	5,336 73
Expense for burial of indigent soldiers and dependents,	29,176 00
Total for 1905,	\$841,363 64

The increased expenditure in 1905 over 1904, amounting to about \$16,000, was caused by the number of new applicants for State aid, and the necessity of increasing aid to the full limit authorized by law, to those who, by reason of age and infirmities, became unable to provide any part of their maintenance.

Recipients of State aid on account of the civil war are classified as follows : —

Pensioned soldiers and sailors,	7,346
Wives of same,	903
Widows of same,	7,024
Dependent mothers,	158
Dependent fathers,	3
Army nurses,	7
Total number recipients,	15,441
Net increase during 1905, 199.	

Recipients of State aid on account of the war with Spain are classified as follows : —

Pensioned soldiers and sailors,	44
Wives of same,	3
Widows of same,	31
Dependent mothers,	32
Dependent fathers,	6
Children,	26
Total number recipients,	142
An increase of 15 cases over 1904.	

Military Aid.

Disbursements of military aid were made to 671 soldiers and sailors during the year, — a decrease of 137 from the previous year.

Of the number aided, 570 were civil war veterans, and 101 served in the war with Spain. The State's half of the expense for military aid was \$39,177.14, — a decrease of \$5,804.45 from 1904.

In connection with the execution of this law, the commissioner desires to acknowledge the services rendered the department by Surg.-Gen. William H. Devine, whose semi-weekly examinations of applicants for military aid, admissions to the Soldiers' Home, etc., have greatly facilitated the work of the office in determining the amount of aid to be allowed. It will be noticed that the disbursements of military aid are steadily decreasing as the years go by. Soon, it is believed, the amount will be reduced to a comparatively small sum, represented by a few men who are not entitled to pensions, and a few whose pensions and State aid are insufficient to meet extreme necessities and poverty.

The agents, Mr. Edwin C. Stone, Dr. Henry Shaw and Miss Lena G. Bayley, have rendered efficient service in examining recipients of aid through the State, visiting 112 cities and towns and interviewing 6,500 persons. It is the intention to have each city and town in the Commonwealth visited once in two years at least.

Burial Expenses of Indigent Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, their Wives, Widows and Mothers, and Army Nurses.

Under the provisions of chapter 381, Acts of 1904, there were buried, during the year 1905, 835 persons, at an expense of \$29,176, classified as follows: —

Civil war:—		
Soldiers,	590	
Widows,	160	
Wives,	40	
Mothers,	12	
Spanish war:—		802
Soldiers,	32	
Mothers,	1	
		33
Total,		835

An increase of 43 cases, and an increase of expenditure of \$1,495 over 1904.

The object of this law is to provide for the burial of all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines, and certain named dependents who die without sufficient means to defray funeral expenses, and who would otherwise be turned over to the overseers of the poor, in the different municipalities of the State.

Total Payments of State Aid since 1861.

The total payments by the Commonwealth for State and military aid and burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, including appropriations made by the General Court toward maintenance of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, from 1861 to the close of 1905, were	\$30,895,261 27
State and military aid and burial of soldiers and sailors on account of 1905, paid in 1906,	841,363 64
Special laws,	\$1,597 50
Soldiers' Home,	60,000 00
	61,597 50
Total to Dec. 1, 1906,	\$31,798,222 41

CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

It is my sad duty to report the death of Col. Joseph B. Parsons, Deputy Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions, as having occurred on the 4th of June, 1906, the result of a severe attack of pneumonia, ending in heart failure. Colonel Parsons was the first pension agent for the State of Massachusetts, having been appointed to the position in 1888. He held the office until the year 1902, when the two offices were merged, and became the department of State aid and pensions, with Colonel Parsons as deputy commissioner. He was at once assigned to the special work of adjusting pensions and other claims of citi-

zens of this Commonwealth against the government of the United States. In this department his services were notably successful, and his fine record as a soldier and commanding officer in the great civil war, coupled with his martial bearing, gave dignity and consideration to the office he so ably filled.

The vacancy caused by Colonel Parsons' death was filled by the Governor, who appointed Maj. Francis A. Bicknell on the 20th of June, and he at once assumed the duties of the office. Major Bicknell had filled the position of first clerk in the department for several years, and was particularly well equipped for the duties of deputy commissioner. His appointment was a deserved recognition of the services of a good soldier, a faithful employee of the State, and the promotion was received with widespread satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,

Commissioner State Aid and Pensions.

PENSION DEPARTMENT.

In assuming the duties of this department, I have not deemed it advisable to make any changes in the rules and regulations established by my predecessor; the same clerical force has been retained, and much credit is due them for the continued successful performance of the work.

There has been no pension legislation during the year that has materially affected the duties of the office.

Our thanks are tendered to the Bureau of Pensions at Washington for the prompt adjudication of our claims.

As in former years, several thousand vouchers have been executed without expense to the pensioners.

Appended is a brief summary of the work for the year 1906:—

1,847 claims filed, classified as follows:—

Soldiers (original),	365
Increase,	913
Widows,	304
Widows accrued,	29
Reimbursement,	71
Restoration,	12
Mothers,	5
Fathers,	4
Guardians,	5
New pension certificates,	54
Transfers,	33
Arrears pay and bounty,	6
Certificate in lieu of discharge,	1
Extra pay,	1
Nurse,	1
Wives (one-half pension),	2
Unendorsed pension check,	9
Prize money,	1
Removal of charge of desertion,	1

Correction of name on rolls,	1
Old claims,	29
Total,	1,847
Number of claims allowed,	1,367
Number of claims rejected,	251
Amount collected,	\$39,105 24

Respectfully submitted,

F. A. BICKNELL,

Deputy Commissioner State Aid and Pensions.